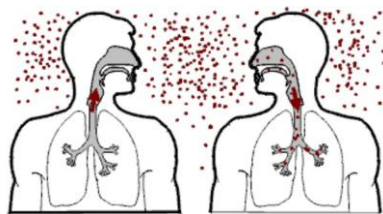


## What is Tuberculosis (TB)?

TB is a disease that can affect any part of the body, but it most often attacks the lungs. When a person with TB disease in the lungs or throat coughs, speaks, laughs or sneezes, tiny TB germs enter the air. People do not get TB from shaking hands, sharing glasses or dishes, or from toilet seats.

## What is latent TB infection?

If you breathe in TB germs through the air from a person with TB disease, you may become infected with TB. This means you have latent TB infection (LTBI).



TB germs can live in your body without making you sick. If you have LTBI, you have a chance of getting TB disease sometime during your lifetime.

If your body can't fight the TB germs and you become sick, you have TB disease. You may spread the germs to your family and others. People with TB disease need to take several medicines for at least 6-9 months to get well.

## How do I know if I have LTBI?

A skin test on your arm or a special blood test can tell if you have TB infection. Your health care provider can explain these tests.

## What happens if I test positive?

A positive result means you have LTBI. The first step is to have a chest x-ray to make sure you do not have TB disease. If your x-ray does not show TB disease, you may still need medicine to keep your TB germs from spreading and making you sick.

## What is the treatment for LTBI?

For years, the only treatment for LTBI was to take a medicine called isoniazid for 9 months. This treatment still works, but now there is a shorter way to treat LTBI. You can take two medicines, isoniazid and rifapentine, once a week for 12 weeks. Instead of taking one medicine every day for 9 months, you will take two different medicines once a week for 3 months.

The number of pills you take will depend on how much you weigh.

Isoniazid



Rifapentine



## What is Directly Observed Therapy?

The 12-dose weekly treatment must be taken by directly observed therapy (DOT). With DOT, a health care worker is with you when you take your pills. DOT makes it easier to remember to take your pills and get well.

## What else do I need to know?

Tell your health care worker if you are taking any other medicines, including vitamins and herbs that you buy without a prescription. Some birth control methods do not work as well with this medicine. Rifapentine can cause your urine, saliva or tears to become orange. You will need to visit your health care provider once a month to make sure you are on track with your treatment and discuss any issues.

## What about side effects?

Most often, TB medicines are safe. Very few people have side effects. If you have any of the problems listed below, call or see your health care provider right away.

- Fever
- Yellow eyes
- Dizziness
- Rash
- Aches
- Flu-like symptoms
- Weakness
- Abdominal pain
- Loss of appetite

**Ask your health care provider if the 12-dose weekly treatment is right for you.**

If you have latent TB infection, or LTBI, here are some things you should know:

- You need to take medicine to treat the infection and prevent TB disease.
- There is a shorter treatment option, called the “12-dose weekly treatment.”
- Directly observed therapy is part of the 12-dose weekly treatment.
- Tell your health care provider about other medicines you are taking.
- Be sure to see your health care provider once a month to see how you are doing.

Other instructions:

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**Protect yourself from getting TB disease.**

**Take treatment for TB infection. Make sure you finish your treatment.**

If you have questions, please contact:

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[www.vdh.virginia.gov/tb](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/tb)

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# Treating TB Infection



# A Weekly Treatment Option